Rights & Responsibilities for all Residents

The right to study, read, relax, and sleep without unreasonable interference, noise, or distractions, and the responsibility to ensure that others have this right;

The right to feel safe in the residence halls as well as the responsibility to help ensure the safety of others in the building;

The right to have respect shown for one’s privacy, and the responsibility to respect the privacy of others;

The right to have respect shown for one’s personal property, and the responsibility to respect other’s personal property as well as community property;

The right to have guests within the hall, and the responsibility for the behavior of those guests;

The right to live in an area free of intimidation and physical or emotional harm, and the responsibility to ensure this right for others;

The right to a clean living environment, and the responsibility to help keep the environment clean;

The right to maintain one’s personal beliefs and values, and the responsibility to respect other’s beliefs and values.

Please remember that the rights of an individual end when the exercising of those rights interferes with the community as a whole.
The Westhampton College Dean’s Office welcomes you to the University of Richmond and wants to help make your transition to college life as smooth as possible.

If you are like most college students, you are probably a little nervous about living with your roommate and sharing a bathroom. Whether you will be meeting your roommate for the first time or have known each other for years, this is going to be a new situation for both of you. Communication, respect, and compromise are essential elements to a happy, productive, and relaxed living and learning environment. To better ensure that the lines of communication remain open between roommates and that expectations are discussed, roommates will develop a formal “Roommate Agreement.” As you prepare to come to campus, please take some time to think about the questions from the “Roommate Agreement” (see page 6). The Resident Assistant on your hall will discuss the agreement in more detail during your first floor meeting and will assist you with any questions you may have while completing the agreement.

We sincerely wish you the best during your first year and anticipate you will learn a lot about yourself and others living in the residence halls.

Check-In Tips

Moving into your residence hall is an exciting day. In an effort to make the day as smooth as possible we would like to share a few tips with you prior to your arrival. Check in will be on Wednesday August 19 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

- Doors will not open before 9 a.m.
- All students should report directly to their assigned building. Check-In tents have been designated near each building.
- We encourage you to wear comfortable clothing and closed toe shoes.
- All residents must have their SpiderCard before moving into their room.
- Be prepared for crowds. We’ll be ready and waiting to answer any questions you may have!
- Hand trucks will be available to borrow if needed, but if you have one available bringing it could make the day go a bit more smoothly.
- Please keep in mind that all surge protectors and extension cords must be Fire Shield™ brand. For more details please visit: http://safety.richmond.edu/fire/index.html. Fire Shield products will be available for purchase in the bookstore.
- Wondering what you should bring? Please check out the following website: https://housing.richmond.edu/firstyearstudents/things.html

Some advice...

The best advice that can be offered to any community member is to respect the needs of others and consider the impact that your behavior has on others. Take responsibility for yourself and take the initiative to challenge fellow residents who are not demonstrating mutual respect. While the student staff will enforce policy, mediate disputes, and provide assistance when needed, the atmosphere of your hall will primarily be set by each resident’s actions. Finally, remember that with every right comes an equal or greater responsibility.

Be a good neighbor...

...respect others.
...show genuine interest.
...cooperate.
...take initiative.
...learn and use names.
...take responsibility.
...be inclusive.
...offer assistance.
...confront with care.
...be a team player.
...share your skills.
...engage in conversation.
...lend a hand.

Use the buddy system.
Do not prop doors.
Err on the side of caution.
Keep your room locked.
Get to know URPD.
Support and get to know all hall staff.

PLEASE CARRY YOUR ROOM KEY & STUDENT ID WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!
Questions from the Roommate Agreement

Think about the following questions. It will be important for you to discuss these questions with your roommate during the first few weeks of school.

Sleep:
What time do you go to sleep?
What time do you get up?
Are you a heavy or light sleeper?

Study:
How often do you study?
When and where do you study?
How quiet does it need to be while you study?
Do you listen to music while studying?
Do you plan on doing most of your studying in the room?

Cleanliness:
How neat do you want the room to be?
How do you determine who cleans what and when?
How do you want to decorate the room?
Who will take out the garbage?

Personal Property:
Which of your items are you willing to share?
Do you have any items that are off limits?
Will you share food which you have purchased?
Would you like to share clothes with your roommate?
Do you want someone to ask permission before borrowing or using any item?

Guest Visitation (a guest is anyone not assigned to the room)
How many people will visit at one time?
When will same sex guests be allowed in the room?
When will opposite sex guests be allowed in the room?
Do you approve of overnight guests?
How early will your guests arrive?
How late will your guests stay?

Miscellaneous:
How would you like to handle locking the room door?
How much time do you need/want to spend with your roommate(s)?
What role will alcohol play in your living situation? (if 21 or over)

Quiet Hours:
What does quiet mean to you?
When will you listen to music?
When will you watch TV?

Conflict Resolution:
How would you like to approach your roommate(s) when conflict arises?
How would you like to be approached when conflict arises with your roommate(s)?
How will you use your roommate agreement to mediate conflict?
What role will your Resident Assistant or Head Resident play in conflict mediation?

CONNECT with your Residence Hall Experience

Westhampton College Residence Life seeks to round out your co-curricular experience at Richmond through connections. We want each woman to feel connected to the communities in which she lives— the hall community, the UR community, and the city of Richmond. We create connections by encouraging and fostering healthy, exciting opportunities within the residential college experience.

As a residence life operation within a university that embraces a coordinate college system, we have the unique opportunity and responsibility to focus our efforts on a community of women. There are five core values reflected in our mission that frame connections of the curricular and co-curricular experience: community, relationships, learning, diversity, and citizenship. By exposing residents to these values, we play an important role in their growth and development.

Community- This is what residence life is all about! Staff seek to create connections with their own residents, between residents who live in close proximity to each other or those with similar interests, and even connecting students with offices and events going on around campus and in Richmond is a priority.

Relationships- The creation of deep, meaningful, and lasting relationships is a cornerstone of the Westhampton experience. Our staff will provide opportunities for residents to connect with both individuals and groups on campus where the formation of these relationships can begin to take root.

Learning- This is another essential component of the residence life experience, creating opportunities for learning by connecting the curricular and co-curricular experience. By incorporating faculty members into the hall communities, continuing discussions started in the classroom, and connecting residents to learning opportunities going on in the community, our staff strives to prepare students to lead informed, purposeful lives.

Diversity- Life in a global society demands citizens who value diversity and multiculturalism. Our staff encourages residents to step outside of their comfort zones and learn about areas of life that are different from their own. By furthering conversation and providing such learning opportunities we strive to develop global citizens.

Citizenship- Lastly, our staff promotes connections and opportunities for learning which will develop in residents a sense of awareness of civic responsibility and personal well being. Attention to the development of this value helps prepare residents for the increasingly complex and intercultural society in which we live.

We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities!
We welcome you to Westhampton College and the University of Richmond. As you begin to think about what life will be like living in the residence halls, we want to assure you that we hope to make your transition as smooth as possible. The Residence Life staff is available to you and is ready and willing to assist. Please let us know what we can do for you! You will learn more about the staff as you arrive on campus, but in the meantime get to know the professional staff members in Residence Life. Among the four of us, we have many years of experience working in Residence Life.

**Charm Bullard, Associate Dean**

Charm Bullard has a B.A. in English from Lander University and a M.Ed. degree in College Student Affairs Administration from the University of Georgia. She has worked in Residence Life at Lander University, Agnes Scott College, Johns Hopkins University, and Clemson University, and has been at the University of Richmond for a total of nine years. Charm’s areas of professional interest are focused around residence life, social justice and understanding the experiences of women of color in higher education. Her office is on the 2nd floor of the Westhampton Center. Her e-mail is cbullard@richmond.edu

**Bianca Ortiz, Area Coordinator**

Bianca is originally from Los Angeles, California. She graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Feminist Studies and English with an emphasis in Environmental Literature Studies in 2011. Bianca earned her M.Ed. in College Student Affairs Leadership from Grand Valley State University in Michigan. Bianca is responsible for both of the first year halls. Bianca is passionate about feminism, diversity, social justice, leadership and the empowerment of women. Her office is on the 1st floor of the Westhampton Center. Her email address is bortiz@richmond.edu.

**Kathy Moore, Administrative Coordinator**

Kathy Moore is a native of Richmond, VA and has worked in the Westhampton College Dean’s Office for almost 19 years. In 2012 she earned her Bachelor of Liberal Arts from the University of Richmond’s School of Professional and Continuing Studies. Kathy has two daughters and, both are graduates of Westhampton College. Her work experience combined with her mom experience make her a great asset to our program! Her office is on the 2nd floor of the Westhampton Center. Her e-mail is kmoore@richmond.edu.

**Elena Brooks, Area Coordinator**

Elena Brooks is the Area Coordinator for upperclass halls. Originally from the Chicago area, Elena received her Bachelors in American history from Kalamazoo College in Michigan. After taking a few years off to work at Northwestern University in residential life, she returned to school to get her Masters in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Indiana University. Her professional areas of interest include supporting student transitions, social justice and empowering women. Her office is located on the 1st floor of the Westhampton Center. Her e-mail address is ebrooks2@richmond.edu.

**What about the student staff??**

Westhampton College has 35 student staff members that live throughout our residence halls. There are Head Residents (HRS) and Resident Assistants (RAs). Resident Assistants and Head Residents are responsible for building community in their floor or section. They will plan activities for you to get to know your neighbors and others throughout the hall. They can be a great resource to you, so get to know them! If you ever have any questions, need advice, or just want to talk…your RA is right down the hall!